

REMARKS

The Examiner's Action mailed on November 24, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully considered. Rejected claims 1 - 5 and 7 - 11 have been cancelled. Objected to claims 6 and 12 have been amended to be independent form. Therefore, claims 6, and 12 - 28 now are pending in the application. Reexamination and reconsideration of the amended application respectfully is requested.

The Examiner finally rejected claims 1-5 and 7-11 under 35 USC 102(b) and 35 USC 103(a) as being anticipated or unpatentable over cited prior art of record. The Examiner also has allowed claims 13-28, and states that claims 6 and 12 would be allowed if amended to be in independent form.

As noted above, the rejected claims have been cancelled, and claims 6 and 12 have been amended to be in independent form. Therefore, the claim rejections and objections no longer are applicable and accordingly should be withdrawn.

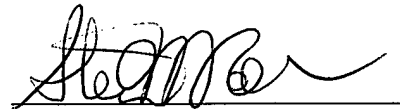
The Examiner also objected to the drawings as failing to include reference numbers 896 and 897. In this connection, the Examiner suggests that Fig. 15 be amended to add these reference numbers.

The objection is traversed on the grounds that these reference numbers are shown in Fig. 20. Also, see page 17 of the original specification (pages 15 and 16 of the substitute specification), where it can be seen that the reference numbers 896 and 897 are referred to as part of a description of Fig. 20. The objection accordingly should be withdrawn.

Based on the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance and such a Notice, with allowed claims 6, and 12 - 28, earnestly is solicited. Should the Examiner feel that a conference would help to expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned counsel to arrange for such a conference.

Respectfully submitted

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Date



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